



# Department of Justice

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## **FRESNO MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 11 YEARS IN PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger sentenced THEODORE MEEKER, 66, of Fresno, today for possession of child pornography to 11 years and three months in prison, followed by a 10-year term of supervised release, during which his access to children and the Internet will be restricted.

This case was the result of Operation Valley Predator II, a month-long multi-agency effort that primarily targeted individuals who had previously been convicted for offenses involving the sexual exploitation of minors. The investigation was conducted by the Fresno Cyber Crimes Task Force, which includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Fresno Police Department, the United States Secret Service, the California Department of Justice, and Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

During Operation Valley Predator II, more than 22 federal, state, and local agencies throughout the Central Valley made contact with approximately 377 individuals, executed approximately 20 search warrants, and arrested 61 persons on a variety of offenses ranging from child pornography crimes to failure to register as a sex offender. More than 17 new federal indictments resulted from the enforcement operation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, on October 20, 2008, MEEKER admitted that, from approximately January 2006 through June 2007, he used two separate computers to possess more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images were of prepubescent children and some depicted violence or sadistic abuse. The defendant also admitted that he had engaged in a pattern of sexual abuse or exploitation of one or more minors.

MEEKER has been detained as a flight risk and danger to the community since his initial appearance in federal court on August 25, 2008.

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